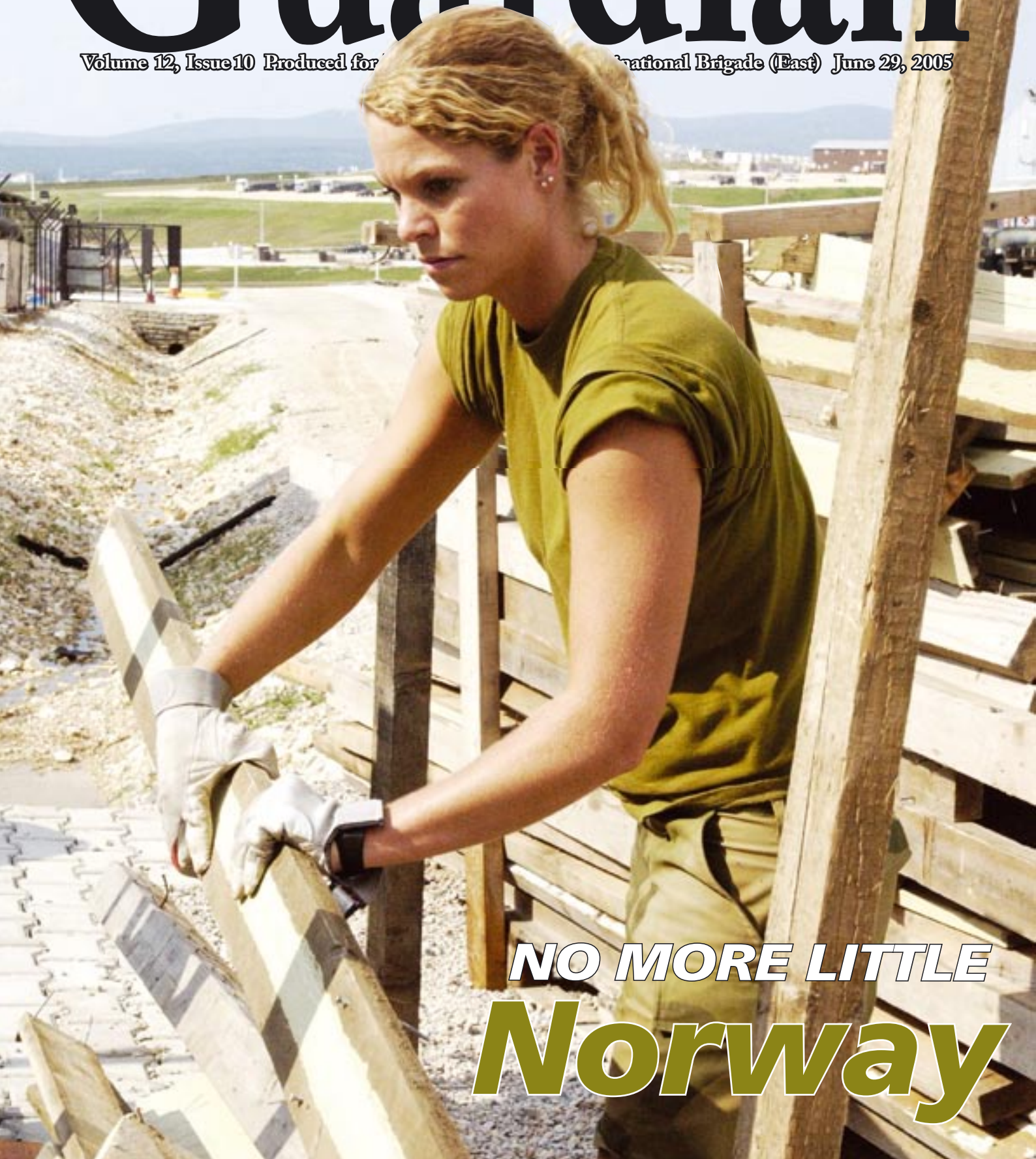


IRISH RANGE TRAINING • ENGLISH CLASS • LAW AND ORDER

Guardian

Volume 12, Issue 10 Produced for the 1st Airborne Division (East) June 29, 2005



NO MORE LITTLE
Norway

BUTT OUT SMOKING • SURVEY OF AIRFIELD • SILVER STAR AWARDED

**Eating fruits
instead of dessert
will help you slim down
for your PT test,
will give you energy,
will not
rot
your
teeth
and
will
make
your
mother
proud!**



This message brought to you by Task Force Falcon Command Information

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PHOTO BY SPC. ALICIA DILL

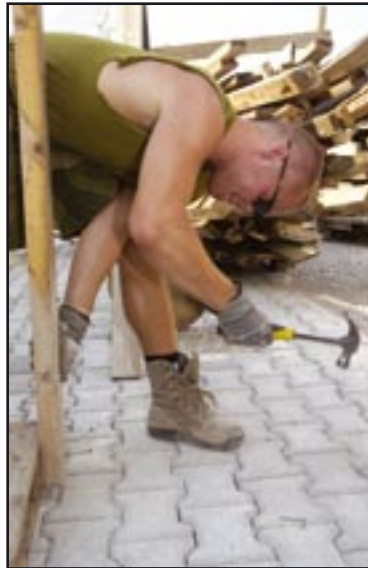


PHOTO BY SPC. LYNETTE HOKE

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COVER PHOTO BY SPC. LYNETTE HOKE

1st Lt. Helene Hval, Norwegian Soldier works on tearing down the Little Norway Camp after the change of command ceremony.

Sunburst Div. CG holds town hall meeting

One valuable quality of a leader is to have the ability to listen to those you lead.

The leadership of the 40th Infantry Division demonstrated that quality when they extended an open forum to their troops deployed here in Kosovo.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey L. Gidley, Commanding General of the 40th Infantry Division, addressed his Sunburst Soldiers by noting an experience he had while on patrol in the town of Gnjilane/Gjilan, Kosovo.

"I was walking on a patrol with the 1-160th Infantry. On the patrol we met the Mayor of Gnjilane/Gjilan. We took the opportunity to talk to the Mayor for about 20 minutes," Gidley said.

"Take great pride in what you do here in Kosovo," said Gidley.

"The kind of work that our Soldiers are doing here is so meaningful to them."

Gidley encouraged Soldiers to hear this for themselves by speaking to the local populace.

"I can tell you, if you have not taken the opportunity to talk to the officials and the people living in this area, you should make an effort to do so," he said.

"They truly believe that their security, success and safety are due to your presence here," he said.

While some Soldiers may feel the lack of a threat, Gidley encouraged them by saying.

"There are some that may say, 'Nothing seems to happen here,'" Gidley said.

"Nothing seems to happen here because you Soldiers are here," he said.

"The presence of the United States Forces and your presence here today, right now, makes it possible to survey how close Kosovo is to a final status agreement.

"I am extremely proud of the work you have done here and the way you have

prepared for your mission. I am proud of how you made it through the mobilization process, deployed and came here.

"I am extremely proud to be your commander; my only regret is that I am not deployed here with you," he said.

Gidley opened up the floor to an open discussion and allowed the Soldiers time to ask questions. During the forums, he addressed concerns like the future transformation and structure of the 40th Infantry Division.

Referencing the changing structure of the Army, Gidley said, "What it means for our Soldiers is that there will be opportunities for new military occupational skills. There will be new opportunities for some to move into new job fields. There will be a place for everybody," Gidley said.

Some Soldiers asked questions regarding the possibility of the next 40th call-up.

Gidley answered, "In any presidential reserve call-up (PRC), by law you can only be called for two years of service on a single PRC. In our situation, none of our Soldiers are forced to go on a consecutive deployment. So my answer to you is, no, you are not going on another deployment here. You are not going to Iraq from here. You are not going to Afghanistan from here."

While Gidley calmed fears of additional deployments, he had a message for those interested in staying in Kosovo.

"If a Soldier wishes to volunteer for another deployment, a Soldier can do so," he said.

The Sunburst Division commanding general also addressed recruiting issues and filling the future ranks of the Army National Guard.

Gidley stated that he really wants to know what his Soldiers are thinking and that he is working so the deployment goes well for his troops.

He ended by saying, "I am proud of each one of you. You are showing what it is to be an American, to support our nation and really living the Army values.

"For that you can be proud, every day you put on the uniform." ❖

COMMANDING GENERAL, MNB(E)
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM WADE II

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, MNB(E)
AND COMMANDER, MPAD FALCON

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Quicktime

Female Guardsmen receives Silver Star

For the first time since World War II, an Army woman was awarded the Silver Star for valor June 16 in Iraq.

Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester of the 617th Military Police Company, a National Guard unit out of Richmond, Ky., received the Silver Star, along with two other members of her unit, for their actions during an enemy ambush on their convoy.

Hester's squad was shadowing a supply convoy March 20 when anti-Iraqi fighters ambushed the convoy. The squad moved to the side of the road, flanking the insurgents and cutting off their escape route. Hester led her team through the "kill zone" and into a flanking position, where she assaulted a trench line with grenades and M203 grenade-launcher rounds. She and Staff Sgt. Timothy Nein, her squad leader, then cleared two trenches, at which time she killed three insurgents with her rifle.

When the fight was over, 27 insur-

gents were dead, six were wounded, and one was captured.

Hester, 23, who was born in Bowling Green, Ky., and later moved to Nashville, Tenn., said she was surprised when she heard she was being considered for the Silver Star.

"I'm honored to even be considered, much less awarded, the medal," she said.

Being the first female Soldier since World War II to receive the medal is significant to Hester. But, she said, she doesn't dwell on the fact. "It really doesn't have anything to do with being a female," she said. "It's about the duties I performed that day as a Soldier."

Hester, who has been in the National



PHOTO BY SPC. JEREMY D. CRISP

Sgt. Leigh Ann Hester, vehicle commander, 617th Military Police Company, Richmond, Ky., stands at attention before receiving the Silver Star at an awards ceremony at

Guard since April 2001, said she didn't have time to be scared when the fight started, and she didn't realize the impact of what had happened until much later.

"Your training kicks in and the Soldier kicks in," she said. "It's your life or theirs. ... You've got a job to do -- protecting yourself and your fellow comrades." ★

DoD cautions servicemembers against 'loan-shark' lenders

The Defense Department has launched a new effort to educate servicemembers about the dangers of borrowing from "loan-shark" lending companies and to teach them how to avoid ending up in a spiral of compounding debt, a DoD official said.

The most prevalent type of loan-shark lending affecting military personnel is what is known as "payday loans," said John M. Molino, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy. "A payday loan is essentially a plug -- money that gets you from today to the next payday so you can cover your bills." The problem is that money is very expensive, he said in an interview.

"Typically, a payday loan of a \$100 will cost the borrower \$17 for two weeks. The average payday loan is about \$500, so now we're talking about a fee of \$85.

"By itself, that's not a big problem,"

Molino said. "However, when you consider that it is not uncommon for that military member to roll the loan over four or five times, that \$85 will grow exponentially to the point where you are paying an enormous amount of money for the relatively meager amount of the loan.

"It got you through payday, but if you weren't able to pay it off, now it's two more weeks, and two more weeks, and you're paying nearly 500 percent interest annually. That's a lot of money to pay," he said.

Considering that about nine percent of all enlisted personnel and 12 percent of all mid-level non-commissioned officers use payday loans, the potential for detrimental impact on mission accomplishment is very real, Molino said.

"If you're in debt, you have other things in mind. You're doing things other than concentrating on the mission; maybe you're taking on other

employment. The effects are long-lasting and go deep into a person's performance; it affects unit readiness," Molino said.

Part of the problem is the proximity of payday lenders to military installations. "If you look at where they position their businesses, they are right outside the gate," Molino said. A recent study of 15,000 payday lenders in more than 13,000 ZIP codes in 20 states that host military installations revealed that payday lenders open their storefronts around military installations.

Molino said the department is taking steps, such as hosting fairs at military installations, to educate military members about the dangers of payday loans and familiarize them with ways to put themselves and their families on a sound financial footing.

"We can make Soldiers smarter," he said. "We can make them better con-

See **Lender**, page 23

On target with the Irish



Weapons are one way to get Soldiers together for training in any army. Being proficient on all different types of firearms makes for a better marksman and a stronger unit. With this in mind, KFOR Soldiers from the United States and Ireland brought their combined training and experience to the range and fired away...



(Left) Spc. Shawn Rutledge, Headquarters & Headquarters Company, Task Force Shadow, assists an Irish Soldier with an M203 prior to firing.
(Right) An Irish Soldier holds an M203 Grenade Launcher while examining his target prior to the range going hot during weapons familiarization.

Before the fun could begin however, safety was the first thing addressed.

"We ended up giving classes for a couple of hours in the morning to ensure all Soldiers firing unfamiliar weapon systems have a good understanding of the weapon and what is expected out of them when it is time for the range to go hot," said Staff Sgt. Jason Guinn, Operations Noncommissioned Officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1-104th Aviation, Harrisburg, Penn. "I am all about getting everyone out on the range to train and have a good time but safety still remains our number one priority and should never be compromised."

Thirteen U.S. Soldiers and 18 Irish troops participated in the training with nine different weapons at hand. The U.S. brought the M-240 B Machine Gun, M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon, M-24 Sniper Weapon System, MK-19 Grenade Machine Gun and the M-16 rifle. Their counterparts brought Irish Carbines, GPMG, the A-t4, a short range anti-armor weapon and the

Accuracy International .308 sniper rifle.

Firing the sniper rifle calls for a longer distance range. The Falcon 4 range was just what the troops needed to properly train and zero their weapons.

"Falcon 4 is a great range for long distance shooting since it is a couple of clicks long," said Guinn. "Shooting at Falcon 4 gives us the ability to teach newer snipers/long distance shooters different techniques like how to read wind at different distances, how to spot for trace (the ability to watch the vapor trail coming off a bullet that's heading down range) through a spotting scope and how to "mil" (measure) targets at various distances. Once a shooter fine-tunes these abilities, he is a huge asset to the mission and his organization."

"The range facility we have here is excellent," said Sgt. Joe Devlin, Operations Noncommissioned Officer, C Company, Irish Contingent, Multinational Brigade (Center). "We don't have a range like this in MNB (Center) and we normally use a range that goes back to 225 meters. This range stretches back

to 1,000 meters."

Range control also helped ensure the Soldiers had everything they needed for the range to go hot.

"It was top class, to arrive here on the range and for everything to be in place, all the targets laid out and the pop-up targets were ready to go," said Devlin.

"Range control is always more than willing to help when it comes to range set-up," said Guinn.

Making the training possible involved preparation and planning between the two armies and their training officers.

"Every time we call and try to organize events with the Americans, they are always so open and positive," said Devlin. "They are always up to getting things running between the two different nationalities."

"The Irish called Maj. Brian Yori and asked if he knew anyone who ran sniper/long distance ranges and Maj. Yori called and asked me to host this," said Guinn. "Any excuse to get out of the office and get to a range and shoot, is a good one."



Make me do a hundred flutter kicks. Task me out to scrub the latrine with my electric toothbrush. I'll even shine the boots you and your 10 best friends wore on the last patrol...

...Just don't ask me to give up my precious cigarettes.

Stress, boredom or just life on deployment – it can all lead to smoking.

“Smoking use has increased, according to the input we received from Soldiers regarding how they deal with stress here at Camp Bondsteel,” said Sgt. Jack Ng, mental health specialist, Combat Stress Control, Task Force Med. Falcon.

“If it isn't one thing, it is another, and if they were smoking 10 to 20 cigarettes, it has doubled since their arrival here,” said Sgt. Raymond Roswell, mental health specialist, Combat Stress Control, Task Force Med.

Soldiers use nicotine, whether cigarettes or chewing tobacco, as an appetite suppressant, a social habit, or just an outlet to relax.

Many Soldiers turn to nicotine because the luxuries and leisure time activities they enjoy at home aren't available here. Tobacco use is “one of the remaining favorite activities of home,” Roswell said.

Smokers and chewers are at risk for conditions ranging from unpleasant to life-threatening. Minor side-effects include yellow teeth and bad breath, escalating to gum disease and tooth loss.

A few rungs up the lethality ladder, tobacco users may find mouth cancer, stroke and lung cancer. But many young tobacco users ignore the risks.

“We show them slides and pictures of their lungs 20 years from now, but it is hard to get through to these people,” said Ng. “Out of sight, out of mind ... the addiction for them is a state of mind.”

“Most people will disregard these problems and the breakdown in their body,” said Roswell. “Thousands of dollars are wasted every year on tobacco.”

Chewing often begins when young men watch baseball players, cowboys, and tough guys dipping and see it as a manly thing to do, Roswell said.

"It is a kind of habit formed when they were young, to model off someone, some celebrities or athletes," said Roswell. "It is very hard to break a habit when you start in your teens; it becomes a part of your daily lifestyle."

Like young smokers, young chewers tend to ignore the risks, and manufacturers don't advertise them. But a health specialist will tell you: "You are slowly dissolving the front part of your mouth," Ng said.

Roswell said while chewing tobacco is almost exclusively a male addiction, nicotine use among both genders is increasing worldwide.

"The expansion for world-wide users is already beginning as more and more countries fall victim to commercialization of the self-destructive, life-consuming habits of this silly and outlandish plant we know as tobacco," said Roswell.

Silly, outlandish – and incredibly addictive. Tobacco is infamously hard to give up. Some people decide to quit when they feel the symptoms -- difficulty breathing, coughing or getting sick. In some cases, their families ask them to quit. Some people talk for years about quitting ... some time.

"Only with maturity ... does anyone try to quit with a vengeance," said Roswell.

Quitting is not easy. It takes effort and determination to stop nicotine addiction. According to Ng, there are three methods to quit smoking: Cold turkey, tapering and postponing.

Cold turkey means stopping all at once. If you usually smoke two packs of cigarettes a day and you quit 'cold turkey,' you will smoke zero cigarettes tomorrow. Most successful ex-smokers quit cold turkey.

Tapering is smoking fewer cigarettes each day. You might, for instance, decide to reduce the number of cigarettes you smoke by five each day for six days – until the day you choose as your personal quit date.

On the first day, you would smoke your usual 30 cigarettes; on the second

day, 25; and so on. Day six you would smoke five, and day seven would be your quit date – your first day as a nonsmoker.

Postponing is smoking your first cigarette later every day. With this method you do not count your cigarettes or focus on reducing the number you smoke. You might decide to postpone the time at which you start smoking by two hours each day, for six days, until your personal quit



For some Kosovo Forces Soldiers, smoking or chewing tobacco products can be a hard habit to quit.

date.

On the first day, you might begin smoking at 9 a.m., on the second day, 11 a.m. By day six, your first cigarette is at 7 p.m., and you quit the next day.

Many tobacco users trying to quit turn to nicotine patches, gum or lozenges, often paired with drugs. Whether you choose to use such aids or not, studies show a structured program with built-in moral support yields a better chance to nonsmoker wannabes.

Camp Bondsteel offers an eight-week, four-session "Smok-

ing Cessation Program." The Camp Bondsteel Hospital does prescribe the Nicotine patch, Nicotine gum and Zyban for those who are interested in chemical aids and enrolled in the program. Each prescription is good for two weeks, and participants must return for renewals and refills.

Sessions cover:

- health risks and psychological effects of tobacco use
- withdrawal symptoms and how to manage them
- how to anticipate cravings, and
- how to use the buddy system effectively.

Camp Bondsteel's smoking cessation statistics show that of the male Soldiers in the program, about 30 to 35 percent chew, 55 to 60 percent smoke and five to 10 percent use both. Female Soldiers in the program all smoke. The patch seems to be troop's favorite quit-smoking aid, Ng said.

Battle buddies can help, too. Soldiers out in sector, especially, should use the buddy system, Ng said. The smoker should tell his buddies he is in the Smoking Cessation Program, and ask them not to offer him any cigarettes and to stop him if he asks for any.

Anyone trying to quit should avoid high-risk areas and situations which can trigger the craving for a cigarette, Ng said.

"Always carry a pack of gum, hard candy or toothpick. When the craving hits, do some breathing exercises and drink water. The craving will go away in two to three minutes," he said.

You can restrain from the hundreds of flutter kicks and save on boot polish as battling the addiction of tobacco is easier than you think. The hospital on Camp Bondsteel can provide information materials — or grab a battle buddy, start a hobby or just chew some gum.

Stress, boredom or just life on deployment – it can all lead to smoking. Just remember giving up the precious cigarettes, might be for your own good. ★

Patroling: *a 'textbook'* Success

*English patrol is as common as
synch, mounted, or dismounted patrols
to Soldiers from A Company, 1-160th Infantry,
and A Company, 578th Engineers.
These Sidewinder Soldiers visit classrooms
and teach English in both
Serbian and Albanian schools.*



Story and photos by 2nd Lt. Tim Mills

An open, upturned hand gesture—toward a student in the second row. The young boy rises to his feet and faces the Soldier. 2nd Lt. Guillermo Peña, Platoon Leader, A Company, 1-160th Infantry, enunciates his words slowly and clearly. In a sincere and polite voice he says, “Good morning.”

The student responds, “Good Morning.”

“How are you?” asks Peña.

“I am doing well,” replies the student.

“How is your family?” asks Peña.

“My family is doing well,” answers the student.

The dialogue continues as Peña explores the student’s mastery of English.

While some Soldiers might have difficulty saying “hi” or waving to kids from their Humvee, others look at children as their “spheres of influence.”

English patrol is as common as synch, mounted, or dismounted to Sol-

diers from A Co. 1-160th Infantry, and A Company, 578th Engineers. These Sidewinder Soldiers visit classrooms and teach English in both Serbian and Albanian schools.

For 2nd Lt. Eusebio Arballo, platoon leader, A Company, 578th Engineers, English patrol is no different from any other patrol. Arballo directs Cpl. Clinton Jurey, assistant squad leader, to conduct pre-combat inspections before the group leaves the wire. Jurey checks for ID’s,



2nd Lt. Guillermo Peña discusses the flavors of ice cream during an English class held in Pasjane.

dog tags, and important documents. Next, Soldiers cross the road to perform functions checks on their weapons.

Soon, four Humvees roll into the small town of Dobercane as a little girl in a pink shirt smiles and waves.

The troops step out of their vehicles, instantly surrounded by kids. Some children start conversations, while others stare inquisitively as if they want to say something, but don't know how.

Whether in Dobercane, Pasjane

or Vlasticka, the children show an eagerness to learn. For Soldiers, that eagerness offers a chance to teach, and possibly affect the community.

"A while ago the S-5 threw out the idea of an adopt-a-school program," said 1st Lt. Jubilee Satele, executive officer, A Company, 1-160th Infantry. "I suggested it to the platoon leaders."

Peña, who taught high school government classes for almost two years at a private school, volunteered.

"He decided to do an English class and he's been doing it ever since," said Satele. "He started in Pasjane which (has) a Serbian majority, then I told him we needed to find an Albanian school as well to cover both ethnicities. So he went to Vlasticka and talked to the school director and started doing it over there."

"Having the opportunity to teach once again was a happy moment," said Peña.

See School, page 23



A massive situation

Story and photos by Spc. Alicia Dill

Spc. Yolanda Duarte looks into a hand mirror after the artist finishes her make-up. "I look horrible!" she said.

"Perfect," said the artist, Spc. Omari Carmichael.

Ready for her scene, Duarte awaits her

Duarte normally works as a clerk who handles officer evaluations for Task Force Falcon. Today, she plays another role — a volunteer victim in a vehicle ambush.

The play was a mass casualty exercise to train multinational Soldiers in emergency response and trauma care. The 83 players included casualties, medics, a Swedish Quick Reaction Force, evaluators and a medical evacuation team.

Scene one: after the ambush. Three bullet-riddled vehicles, two litter the road and one is burning. A third car lies upside-down in a nearby ravine. Completing the picture — black smoke, orange fire, screaming victims and a milling

crowd of would-be rescuers.

The vehicles' 12 occupants suffer injuries ranging from burns and broken bones to shrapnel and blast injuries.

"It was controlled chaos," said Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Kennedy, 40th Forward Support Battalion, C Company, Montebello, Calif., Ground Ambulance noncommissioned officer in charge, who helped coordinate the exercise.

The Swedish Quick Reaction Force arrived first, secured the perimeter and started treating patients.

"We started looking out for who really needed help," said Cpl. Robin Prince, rifleman and combat life saver, Swedish QRF, B Company, 1st Platoon, 1st Squad. It wasn't the standard injuries, (we usually train with) so we had to do the whole exam to figure out what was wrong with them."

The first ambulance reached the scene six minutes after the QRF, with two medics from Task Force Med Falcon. Staff Sgt. Patricia Holliday, C Company, 40th Forward Support Battalion, became the incident commander and Spc. Myesha Britt triaged the patients to determine which patient's injuries were the most severe.

Following the first ambulance, American, British and Portuguese medical teams showed up to assist in treating and evacuating the patients. Also helping out were two British



(Above right) Spc. Michelle Green, medic, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade, 40th Infantry Division, Ground Ambulance, Task Force Med Falcon and Sgt. Aaron Goza, medic, C Company, Task Force Tornado, and two Swedish QRF members work against the clock and potential danger to stabilize one of the injured. (Center) A car burns to intensify the accident scene by the Swedish Fire and Rescue Platoon.

Languages of triage

Using different systems for triaging patients and learning other North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) country's standard operating procedures of completing the same tasks was an important part of accomplishing this training.

The American Ground Ambulance team uses the IDME series:

- Immediate - loss of life, limb or eye sight
- Delayed - less severe injuries but without treatment could turn in to an immediate

- Minimal - a walking patient
- Expectant - expecting to die

The Swedish, Portuguese and British medical teams use the P-series:

- P1 - meaning the same as immediate
- P2 - can be delayed to minimal
- P3 - a walking patient

appropriate patients to start working on, with priority going to the immediate cases, she said.

The Swedish combat life-savers continued assisting the medics whenever it was necessary, said Prince.

"I was just walking around to my different squad members and seeing if it was safe to go on to the next patient," he said.

Medics stabilized some patients by administering oxygen or intravenous drips.

Evacuating the victims for further treatment was the next task. It was difficult with patients trapped at the bottom of a ravine.

"The medics assessed the terrain, and decided to take a safer route to get the patients up," said 1st Lt. Katrina Seale, Ground Ambulance platoon leader and Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander, 3rd Brigade, 40th Forward Support Battalion, Task Force Med Falcon.

"The alternative route was not as steep and all patients were evacuated safely."

Maintaining safety during the training and adding another element of pressure were two reasons this exercise involved evaluators.

From start to finish, the evaluators, who are registered nurses from the different countries, stayed by the patients' side, testing the response from the medics.

"My team did very well even though they are all junior medics," said Sgt. Lepine Williams, practice manager, British Medical Center, National Support Element.

"So many different nations and patients, it was impressive timing with stabilizing and packaging them up for transportation," said Kennedy.

The exercise ended with a chance for participants to review the action.

"There was trouble communicating over the radios," said Holliday. "I had to get information from everywhere and I didn't have the control I wanted."

Prince also mentioned communication as an issue.

"The information I gathered in the beginning (as part of the QRF team) could have helped with the confusion," said Prince. "We needed to work on communication."

After the scenario was completed, the actors washed the fake blood and the real sweat from their faces.

These Soldiers helped train medics who would be there to save their lives or the lives of others by providing a scene filled with confusion, chaos and frightening reality.



Spc. Michelle Green, two Swedish QRF and a Latvian Military Police Officer carry the patient with a four member carry during the mass casualty exercise.



One of the Swedish QRF members utilizes quick thinking buddy aid, while waiting for the medics to arrive.

Ensuring flight safety

Story and photos by Dennis Johnson



The 320th Engineer Company (Topographic) of the 565th Engineer Battalion, 130th Engineer Brigade, based in Hanau, Germany, sent 11 Soldiers to Camp Bondsteel for one month to survey the camp's helipads. In the above photo, Soldiers set up a global positioning system base station by the camp's airfield.

Knowing the precise coordinates of their surroundings is crucial to ensure the safety of military flight crews and their passengers.

That's why 12 members of the 130th Engineer Brigade's 320th Engineer Company (Topographic) headed to Kosovo to make an accurate survey of the helipads and the surrounding terrain for pilots flying from Camp Bondsteel. Led by 2nd Lt. Ross Renken and Sgt. 1st Class Andre Williams, the new survey will bring the airfield up to current Federal Aviation Administration standards (FAA).

Every five years all airports must be surveyed for any new hazards or obstacles that could jeopardize safe aircraft operations. In those five years trees can grow taller; or buildings, smokestacks and communications towers might be built nearby. All potential obstructions within 10 nautical miles of the airport are identified, and the precise position and height of those obstacles are charted

and printed on the next update of airport charts published by the FAA.

The first step for the survey team was to review existing data, maps, imagery and the survey markers from previous surveys. Camp Bondsteel was originally surveyed by the 320th six years ago during its construction. Since that time, there has been new construction and changes to the layout of the facilities throughout the camp. Using computer software, the engineers reviewed the old data, and using new imagery, they determined the visible changes.

They loaded their computers with map data to identify any potential discrepancies to incorporate into a new site survey of the camp. Throughout the project they worked with Sgt. 1st Class Brian Dodd of the California National Guard, MNB(East) Terrain Team, to ensure they had the best data available.

Once on-site, the first thing the survey field crew needed to accomplish was to "establish control" - identify points

around the area for use as controls for the instruments used to survey the camp.

Above each of the existing control points, placed there in 1999 by this same unit, the engineers set up a Global Positioning System (GPS) base station receiver. Soldiers leveled and sighted the receiver so it could receive data from a group of GPS satellites orbiting the Earth, to determine its absolute position. A Soldier then stayed with the unit for up to 24 hours while it collected data. The long duration of data collection ensures that any anomalies in the system from the equipment, or perhaps from atmospheric conditions, are averaged out.

The receiver tracks the GPS satellites much the same way a handheld receiver does, but it also records the data. It not only tells where the survey control markers are positioned, to within one centimeter, but it also records any anomalies with the satellites or atmospheric conditions. This is used later in a survey

to assist in verifying other survey points.

The data collected from the survey control markers was sent to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency survey office in St. Louis, Mo., to verify the accuracy of the collected data and to ensure it meets the standards of the International Standards Organization.

Once the data is verified, it is sent

diagram will go to the 60th Engineer Detachment (Topographic), 18th Engineer Brigade, Headquarters U.S. Army, Europe. The data will then be sent to the U.S. Army Aeronautical Detachment, Europe, in Heidelberg to be included in updated flight publications.

"A lot of buildings have been built in the past six years. It wasn't part of our

measurements to determine the precise location of each helipad. While a GPS receiver gathered positioning data at the helipads, the base station receivers gathered control information.

But other jobs were soon requested by a variety of organizations at the camp. "Once the base knew a topographical crew was here, our phone started ringing off the hook. We're doing all sorts of small projects that can help the units here," said Lukashow.

The survey platoon assisted the Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit by creating an accurate blast radius for the area where unexploded ordnance is destroyed. The surveyors measured a physical training track that appeared to be beyond the allowable three percent slope and the detention facility required an update of its fence line. An updated camp survey was provided to the local Directorate of Public Works. All these tasks were completed while the platoon updated the airfield safety survey and instrument approaches.

"It's one of the best deployment surveys I've ever had," said Sgt. William Woerz III, a computer-aided design draftsman, "Good living conditions, good food. There's really nothing anyone could complain about in Kosovo. As beautiful as the province is, it was a pleasure to serve here."

The 320th Engineer Company was



(Left) Pfc. Maria Figaro (left) sets up a global positioning system base station receiver at Camp Bondsteel's airfield while Pfc. Chaka Oliver (right) records data of elevation points that will be collected by the team.

back to the unit. At that point, base stations are set up again at the control markers. A Soldier stays at each control station, primarily to ensure the receiver is not disturbed by someone, as the data collection itself is automatic. The remaining Soldiers use GPS rover receivers, but with poles that collect and record the location and elevation of multiple buildings, fence lines and ridges.

At times, it looks like a very slow parade. To measure high obstacles, such as fence tops, a Soldier carries a receiving antenna on the end of a long red and white pole connected by wires to other Soldiers walking a few steps behind carrying the GPS gear. This process is known as Real-Time Kinematic surveying. During the survey, photos are taken of the obstructions and diagrams drawn to include in the final report.

While the field survey crew gathered data, the office crew processed the data with computers and began redrawing the site diagrams of the camp.

For obstacles that can't be reached directly by the GPS receivers, the top of a tower or mountain for instance, an Automated Integrated Survey Instrument is used. This device is a modern electronic version of the theodolites that surveyors used in the past.

Once the survey is complete, the data, a report, photos and a survey



(Above photo) Lt. Ross Renken (left) and Sgt. Betty Lukashow (right) look at maps during their visit to the theatre map depot at Kosovo Forces Headquarters located at "Film City" in Pristina. The depot supplies over 500 different maps. (Right photo) Don't mistake this survey marker for a land-mine, the marker is clearly marked on top.




mission, but it's a nice gesture to update the camp diagram. But, it's not necessary for the helipad survey," said Sgt. Betty Lukashow, a 320th Engineer field crew chief.

Once the topographical platoon had accurate control points, and an accurate survey of the camp, it could take

part of the 565th Engineer Battalion based on Pioneer Kaserne in Hanau, Germany. The battalion inactivated on May 20, with the company coming under direct control of the 130th Engineer Brigade, also based in Hanau. The company and brigade are slated to deploy to Iraq in September.

Law & Order: *Off-limits Edition*

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. R. David Kyle



What do the words “assist”, “protect”, and “defend” have in common? If you are a member of the 40th Military Police Company (Task Force Dragoon) here in Kosovo, the answer to that question should be easy.

“Assist, Protect, and Defend” are found on the Military Police (MP) Corps Regimental Crest, and are the three missions the MP Corps conduct to support Army operations.

In Multinational Brigade (East), a large part of Task Force Dragoon’s mission is to protect Soldiers from dangerous and prohibited businesses that are involved with human trafficking or other illegal activity. Their names and locations can be found on the off-limits list.

“The off-limits list is a list of establishments that the command has designated as unsafe and therefore prohibited for Soldiers to enter or patronize,” said Lt. Col. Julio L. Lima, Provost Marshall and Commander of

Task Force Dragoon.

Lima explained that Soldiers have a responsibility to find out what businesses are on the list and commanders are required to brief their personnel about off-limits sites in their area of operations.

“There is not an obligation to physically carry the list with the Soldier at all times, but the Soldier is obligated to know the status of the establishments that they frequent,” said Lima.

The MPs of Task Force Dragoon ensure that KFOR Soldiers, United Nations Mission in Kosovo Police Officers (UNMIK-P) and United Nations personnel do not visit, enter, or patronize businesses on the off-limits list.

“The Military Police Task Force has the job of enforcing the off-limits list,” said Lima, “This is a traditional role for Military Police.”

Certain activities are restricted, or forbidden, as noted in General Order #1. One of the reasons for restricting or

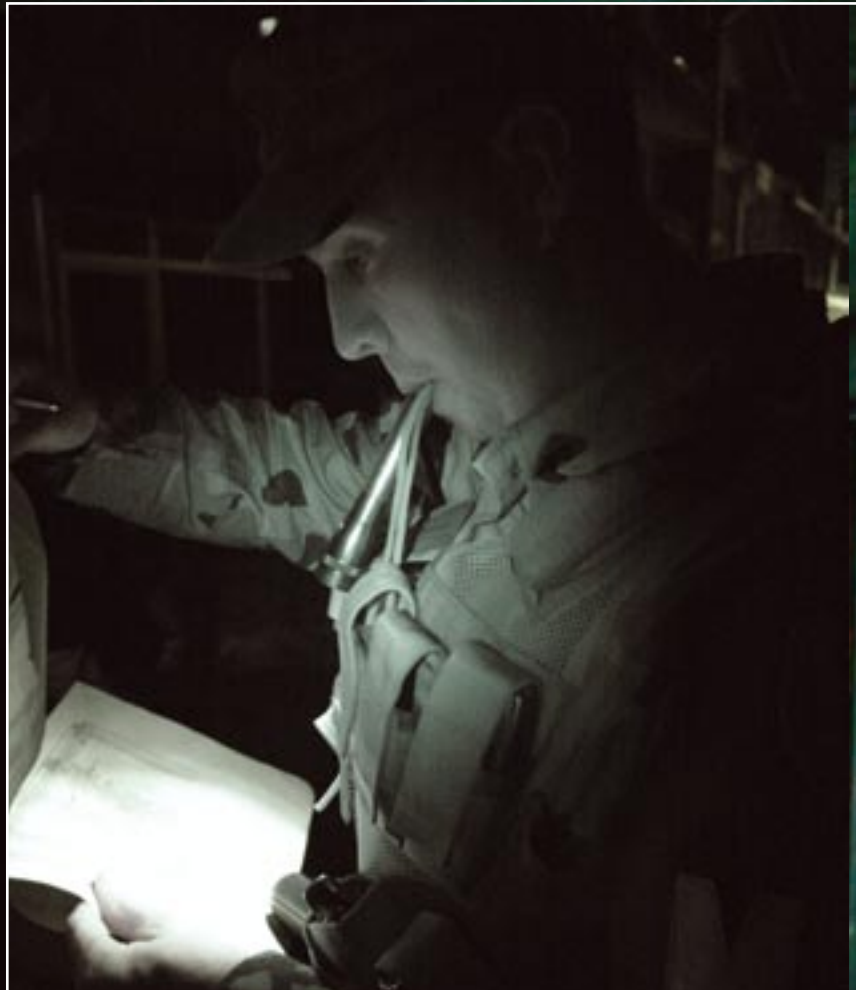
forbidding certain types of activities is to prevent an individual’s actions from bringing discredit upon the U.S. forces and to enhance relations within the region.

“If Americans keep going to an off-limits area like a prostitution den, or something of that nature, what does that say to the Kosovar people,” said 2nd Lt. Sunny C. Griffith, a platoon leader with Task Force Dragoon.

“If Soldiers visit those kinds of businesses, then it sends the wrong message. It says illegal activity is ok,” said Griffith.

Task Force Dragoon enforces the off-limits list and is constantly alert for businesses that exhibit signs of illegal activity. MP patrols and collection assets work to determine if there is activity occurring that threatens the safety and security of our Soldiers.

“It’s important for our Soldiers and all of our squad leaders to know the locations of off-limit areas in MNB East,” said Griffith. “Some of our



(Left) In the glow of his Blue Force Tracker, Sgt. Roger E. Smith, a squad leader with 1st Platoon, 40th Military Police Company, warns his driver about pedestrians ahead while on a patrol in Ferizaj/Urosevac. (Inset) Smith scans the off-limits list for the name and location of a business, while continuing his patrol duties in Ferizaj/Urosevac.

patrol's whole job is to go to a certain sector or a certain town and find all the off-limits places on the list that they can. That way our Soldiers will have a 100 percent awareness of that town," he said.

If Soldiers are to avoid businesses that are off-limits, then names and locations are important.

"Our mission is to find grid locations for establishments on the off-limits list," said Sgt. Roger E. Smith, a squad leader with Task Force Dragoon.

"Our squad submits the grid coordinates of the business. The whole purpose is so that any squad leader knows that location," said Griffith.

While identifying the location of off-limits businesses on the list, often times the MP squad will find one that hasn't been noted before.

"On our last patrol we ended up with 16 places that weren't on the off-limits list," said Smith.

"Once we have a grid location they will send us over to do a business assess-

ment," he said.

Once that information is in hand, it is submitted to the task force for action.

"Our Intelligence section evaluates the information that we gather," said Griffith. "Then they make the judgment if those new places should be on the off-limits list," he said.

Smith pointed out that part of their mission to protect Soldiers, involves more than just identifying businesses on the list.

"While we are on patrol, we keep track of how the public is reacting to us. Is it normal for the area? What is vehicle and foot traffic like? Are there any hazards that we need to let people know about?"

The MPs of Task Force Dragoon take their job of protecting Soldiers seriously, but find that other Soldiers don't always understand.

"The most challenging part of our job is overcoming the perception that we are trying to hassle people," said Smith.

"Our job is to look out for and take care of Soldiers," he said.

Just before going out on another patrol, two members of Smith's squad echoed his sentiments.

"What we're here to do is assist Soldiers," said Spc. Garrett L. Mehrrens, an MP with Task Force Dragoon. "A lot of our job is just being ready for whatever comes along," he said.

Reacting to situations that threaten Soldiers' safety and dealing with incorrect perceptions can be difficult. However, the MPs of Task Force Dragoon are positive about their mission.

"I think our job here is worth it," said Pfc. Lorrene E. Zeidman, an MP with Task Force Dragoon, "I like the mission, definitely."

For those that do not wear the MP brassard, should remember and be thankful that there are Soldiers in Task Force Dragoon who wake up every day with the mission to assist, protect, and defend.

No more Little Norway...

Story and photo by Spc. Lynette Hoke

The Norwegian Detachment consists of one unit, four transport helicopters and 80 Soldiers and they are all volunteers from the Norwegian Defense. They do rotations of six to 12 months and a number of these Soldiers have been in the Balkans, two, three and for some, four times.

"Morale is very high in the NORDET," said Morten Nilsen, Finance Officer, Norwegian Detachment (NORDET). "Everyone is 100 percent dedicated and I believe everyone volunteered to be on this mission on their own free will."

The change of command ceremony was held on June 14. The Detachment Commander passed the power of command back to Gen. Yves De Kermabon, Commander of Kosovo Forces. Norway started their rotation in the Balkans over six years ago.

"The adventure started on the 15th of July nearly one year ago," said the Little Norway, Detachment Commander, Lt. Col. Morten Kutaas. "The damage and the friction caused by the March events were still visible, and the primary challenge was to establish a safe and secure environment with restored confidence in Kosovo's Population," he said.

In the year that the Norwegian Detachment has been in Kosovo, they have become a unit that produced some impressive figures in regards to air time and support to any of the sectors in Kosovo that required assistance.

"This departure ceremony celebrates the end of its third mission in the Balkans. Norwegian Helicopter Reaction Force has flown a total of about 8,000 hours, including more than 1,500 hours for KFOR," said Gen. Yves De Kermabon, Commander of Kosovo Forces.

"This most current mission started on July 14, 2004. Since then, NORDET has transported 7,200 passengers, employing its helicopters 833 times," he said.

"NORDET has contributed to the KFOR Mission by providing Tactical Helicopter support to several units," said Kutaas. "Our main goal has been to perform our mission in the most professional manner possible, focusing on the quality of our product. Be aware that the quality of our product is only measured by the success of the units that we supported," he said.

Some individuals within the NORDET have seen the positive effects of the mission in the Balkans throughout the years.

"This is my third time in the Balkans and I have seen a lot of changes," said Rolf Traasdahl, Aircraft Engineer, Norway Detachment. "I think overall the mission is effective and the way of life is going in the right direction for the people in Kosovo."

The mission for NORDET has been to support all units in any sector of the Multinational Brigade that needed aerial support in their individual tasks with providing a safe and secure environment for the people of Kosovo, said Kutaas.

"The ground units are doing the real job and our focus has always been how to enhance their efforts and increase their effectiveness," he said. "How we deploy our Tactical Helicopters assets to contribute to the success of your mission has been an important mindset for the NORDET."

The professionalism of the NORDET was seen within U.S. KFOR. Some of the U.S. Soldiers were lucky enough to get to work with the Nor-

wegians on missions requiring aerial support.

"As the G3 Air, I was responsible for coordinating all joint missions with the NORDET. I assisted in de-conflicting use of airspace and landing zones on our joint missions. I also met with them during joint air traffic control meetings held by the J3 Air from KFOR," said Major George Hall, Task Force Falcon.

"We developed joint procedures for deconflicting the airspace, and for working together," he said. "They would often give us information on conditions of joint landing zones (LZs) we used during operations, when they went in before we did."

The NORDET has been recognized for being a factor by helping all sectors within Kosovo perform their mission.

"It has been noble service, in the cause of peace and justice, especially over the last few months as many critical events have taken place," said de Kermabon. "KFOR has relied on you, the NORDET, as its tactical reserve airlift," he said.

"The air crews, the support personnel, and NORDET's five Bell Helicopters have been instrumental to KFOR's daily operations, to mission-essential training, and to vital re-supply in support of KFOR's primary mission, to maintain a safe and secure environment for the people of Kosovo," he said.

The NORDET was readily available when MNB (East), U.S. KFOR needed support.

"We conducted several joint missions with Task Force Tornado and the Multinational Specialized Units (MSU)," said Hall. "These missions included aerial insertions," he said.

"Our Blackhawk's would insert TFT

Norway continued on page 22



A Soldier from the Norwegian Detachment holds the Kosovo Forces flag for the change of command ceremony on June 14th.

troops, and the NORDET would insert the MSU, as that was one of their primary missions," said Hall. "On the extraction, we would pick up the MSU in Blackhawk's and return them to Film City, and the NORDET would bring Task Force Tornado troops back to Camp Bondsteel," he said.

Despite the time of day, timeliness or length of the mission, the NORDET was always stepping up to the plate to make sure every mission was taken care of in the most effective manner possible.

"Also, during some of the early cross-boundary missions, we inserted British and Portuguese troops into landing zones on the Former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia border and administrative boundary line. NORDET assisted us in these missions, which were conducted by both Blackhawks and NORDET Bell 412 helicopters jointly."

Regardless of the nationality or location in sector, the NORDET was able to provide professional and prompt support for whatever mission they were needed for.

In the change of command ceremony, the detachment commander reflected on all of the sectors that they have supported.

"We have supported MNB (Center). We performed some challenging operations together, and I remember the night missions in particular," said Kutaas. "I was always impressed by the professionalism of your Soldiers."

Memories and lasting impressions were made outside the detachment as well.

"I found working with the NORDET to be quite pleasant, and a good learning experience," said Hall. "I found that while there were differences between us due to our unique national backgrounds, the similarities were much greater due to the common experiences and passion of working in the aviation field," he said.



Alexander Bjornsen and Thor Hendrik Skjolden, both from the Norwegian Detachment, work on building a crate to hold scrap wood from torndown wooden walkways and decks with-in the camp that was Little Norway.

"They were always very professional and helpful, and I will miss them," said Hall. "

Their departure, with no replacement, will leave a big gap that all of the Multinational Brigades's with aircraft (East, Northeast, Southwest) will have a hard time filling."

Looking towards the west, it is easy to see that the Norwegian Flag is lowered and the de-construction

of Little Norway is in full force. The departure of all Norwegian troops will happen on or before July 5.

"I'll miss a lot of the people from the unit that I met here," said Nilsen. "It's been good being here, but it will be nice going home."

Soon, the camp will be flattened, the Norwegian troops will have all gone home and Little Norway will be no more.

"When I heard about it, I jumped," said Spc. Jeremiah Schrimsher, automatic rifleman, A Company, 578th Engineer, an English instructor at the school in Dobercane. "I was like, 'Hey let me do it.'"

Schrimsher anticipated some oversight and coordination with the teacher, but found himself and his assistant, Spc. Jeffrey Stoughton, in charge of 15 to 20 students.

"I didn't know that I was going to be doing it by myself. I was like, 'Wow that's cool.' I was happy about that. It gave me a full range of motion," said Schrimsher.

With full control of the classroom, Schrimsher had quite an initiation to the teaching environment.

"I remember the first week," says Schrimsher. "One kid said, 'Give me a pen.' I said, 'No, you've got a pen.' And another kid said, 'I don't have a pen,' and so I said, 'Here's my pen.' Before I could even get up to the front of the class another kid said, 'I don't have a pen either.' I said, 'Well here's my other pen.' And then like two seconds later another kid said, 'I don't have a pen either.' I said, 'You know what, who's got an extra pen?'"

Whether it's a pen or a piece of paper, Schrimsher coaches the students to meet their needs.

"Anything they can do to help each other, I try to encourage," said Schrimsher. "Not that I don't want to help them, but we're out on patrol and we'll be cruising through town and the kids are like, 'Give me an MRE, give me this, give me that, give me, give me, give me.' They don't say please, they don't say thank you, and the thing is that they're always asking for something, so I try to discourage that."

Schrimsher said he takes advantage of opportunities to teach manners, but stays focused on his primary goal of teaching English — a goal his students say he's attaining.

Fadil Xhelili, a student in the class, gives his teacher high marks.

"He tries a lot," said Xhelili. "He goes over things so many times till he gets it in our heads. I really like him."

As the second rotation to teach English, the Soldiers come under extra scrutiny from some students.

"We learned a lot," said student Fitore Behluli. "I liked it this year because the guys were very fair, even to those who don't know English that well. I think



Students Artiana Velu and Lumturie Beluli read a dialogue during an English class in Dobercane.

everyone has improved."

One indicator of success in the classroom is how a student's dialogue advances.

"They were able to keep up a conversation," said Spc. Francisco Osorio, driver, A Company 578th Engineers, who just finished his last class before summer break. "That was really one of our main goals: to have them be able to converse."

"I try to make it fun," said Peña. "They've done very well. You can almost have a complete conversation with them."

In Dobercane, class is during the week; however, in Pasjane the students gather for a Saturday morning class. At 8:55 a.m. the classroom is full with 36 students, a few of them standing.

No matter what day of the week it is, Soldiers see English patrol as worthwhile investment in the community.

"It's good to reach out to the kids," said Stoughton. "They're the future."

There's no difference between the Vlasticka or Pasjane school Peña said; both schools have an equal desire to learn.

"We don't take sides. I just saw children," said Peña. "I didn't see whether they're Serbian or Albanian, I just saw children, the future."

The goal may have been to affect the kids, but Soldiers found themselves equally changed by the

experience.

"This I won't forget," said Osorio. "I don't know if I'll ever have another opportunity to do this. If I do ... I'd feel honored."

It's the last English class for the school year. Arballo gathers his Soldiers and interpreters into the office where Jetullah Bislimi, school superintendent, presents each of them with a certificate.

"I know you guys don't have to do this," said Bislimi. "We would like you to continue in September if your command will allow it."

"Things are always changing," said Arballo, explaining that missions vary and he can't make guarantees.

Accepting Arballo's response, Bislimi said, "We are obliged that you came here."

"I would like to give you this," said Arballo. "You're always offering me coffee. This is what we use to drink coffee in the United States."

Arballo handed him a coffee cup, much bigger than the typical macchiato size. For the superintendent and the lieutenant, this patrol ended with mutual, heartfelt thanks.

Lenders continued from page 5

sumers; we can teach them how to save for a rainy day, so when they need to borrow they can -- and pay themselves back, at no interest. We are also doing something about payday lenders."

Molino said his office is watching them closely, looking at behaviors and patterns that are inconsistent with state law and encouraging states to pass laws that are not only friendly to service-members but also require honesty and discipline on the part of payday lenders.

Molino cited Georgia, Florida and Oklahoma as examples of states that have taken positive action against payday lenders. Last year Georgia passed legislation that eliminated payday lending from the state, he said, while Florida and Oklahoma now require a 24-hour waiting period between payday loans, thus eliminating rollovers and multiple loans.

"We believe we need to work hard to limit the impact of payday lenders, but the real answer is to help our service-members and their families get control of their own finances to be in charge of their future," Molino said. ★

Parting Shots



PHOTO BY SGT. 1ST CLASS JOHN MAKAMSON